



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY**  
**(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)**  
**1000 NAVY PENTAGON**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350-1000**

**FEB 27 2006**

Department of the Interior  
Minerals Management Service  
Attn: Rules and Processing Team (RPT)  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, VA 20170-4817

Dear Sir or Madam:

This responds to your agency's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Alternative Energy-Related Uses on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), RIN 1010-AD30, announced in the Federal Register on December 30, 2005. We are commenting in our capacity as the Defense Department's Executive Agent for OCS matters.

Our departments have considerable experience and an excellent relationship working on OCS-related matters. We would like to build on this experience as you begin to develop an OCS alternative-energy program and associated regulations. Inasmuch as some proposed energy uses may interfere with defense operations, we believe it's essential that we establish a formal process to review and negotiate certain OCS requirements, as we have successfully done over the years for oil and gas leasing.

To date, we have been able to manage conflicts between mineral development and military testing and training that occur in many of the OCS planning areas. The current OCS Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between our agencies has also been effective in avoiding OCS conflicts. Our agencies should consider amending this MOA, or developing a new one, to establish similar procedures for addressing alternative energy uses of the OCS.

We support the promotion of offshore energy technology and uses that are critical to our country's energy and national security and look forward to working with you in the period ahead to ensure success in this area.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Schregardus  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
(Environment)